

SENIOR STAFF COLLEGES

BRIEFING: 8 July 1959

INTRODUCTION

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An assignment to a Senior Defense College is more or less a public relations assignment. You are the Agency's representative, and are supposed to have all the answers.

There are several pitfalls that might occur while you are at a college. For example, many people you will meet have wrong ideas about CIA: there are misconceptions about the amount of money at our disposal, and our accountability for it. Some people feel that we have an unlimited supply of money, and have to make no accounting for it at all. There are also misconceptions about the amount of operational freedom we have. Some students had some idea of the DD/I offices here in Washington, but little or no idea of the clandestine side of things. As a result there was constant talk about assassinations, and CIA's role in this activity. There was also wide-spread belief that we can start revolutions and stir up trouble.

There was quite a bit of hostility on the part of a few people toward the Agency or toward clandestine activities. Some were out right nasty. On the other hand, some knew a good deal about the Agency, having worked here at one time or another, or through close association in the field, and this made it particularly difficult in discussion groups to stay within the restrictions set by the Agency.

In answering questions, the students will not accept evasiveness, or sluffing, but they will buy the answer, "I don't know."

One of the main targets of resentment is the State Department. You'll find yourself caught in the middle of an argument between State and military people, and are forced to defend one point of view or another.

In the first discussion group everyone is asked to give a statement of background and activities for the past ten years. You are expected to be specific. For some of the DD/P types, this can become quite a problem if they have had overseas experience.

There is great emphasis put on athletics and social activities. It is important to take part in these, for you become part of a group in the class.

Question : How many civilians were there in the class?

Answer : About one-fourth.

Question : How can a Support person answer questions such as those on assassinations, etc.?

Answer : These things are decided by the National Security Council. We don't get involved until we are directed to do so. The Agency doesn't make policy, but just carries it out.